

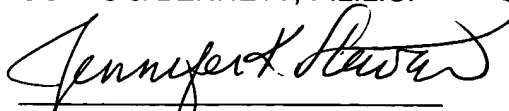
REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed 9 November 2005, Applicant amends independent claims 9, 18, and 38 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 11 and 13, 19 and 21 and 23, and 40, respectively. In addition, Applicant cancels claims 1 – 8, 11, 19, 21, 23, and 40 (claim 39 was previously cancelled), and amends claims 12 – 14, 17, 22, 24, and 41 to conform these dependent claims to the amended independent claims. No new matter is added.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 13, 23, and 40 contain allowable subject matter. Because amended claims 9, 18, and 38 include this allowable subject matter, Applicant submits that independent claims 9, 18, 27, and 38, and all pending dependent claims, are in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 9, 10, 12 – 18, 20, 22, 24 – 38, and 41 – 44. Should any issues remain, Applicant requests that the Examiner call the undersigned so that such issues may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 27 December 2005

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